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Corporations. A study of the Origin and Development of Great Business Combinations and of their Relation to the Authority of the State. By John P. Davis, Ph. D. Two Volumes. G. P. Putman's Sons, New York. 1905. \$4.50 net.

The learned author's treatment of his subject if from a sociological and not a legal view-point. Indeed, the author claims that the technical legal conception of corporations is so clearly unscientific that it must sooner or later be greatly modified or entirely dispensed with. He claims that the legal conception of corporations is an illustration of the fact that the system of law lingers behind society in its progress, and delays to translate newly formed social relations into forcible rights and obligations until long after they have been fully formed. He says that not only does the law negatively fail to interpret promptly and fully new social relations but that it positively preserves decedent social relations in form long after they have ceased to be affective in substance.

The work is not one of historical research but is an interpretation of existing historical material. It is the result of many years labor of a deep and thorough student, who but for his untimely death would have published a scientific treatise on modern corporations, to which the present volumes were intended to be introductory. The closing chapter, however, takes up the subject of modern corporations and in its treatment, though general, is learned and thorough. This chapter, as well as the one on the legal conception of corporations, will prove of special interest to lawyers, because it is in these chapters that the practitioner will find matter, which though more or less familiar, is exceedingly helpful.

The Rule against Perpetuities, by John C. Gray, Professor of Law in Harvard University. Second Edition. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1906. \$6 net.

This is a thorough treatment of the origin, history, and application of the rule against perpetuities or remoteness, which, although narrow, is frequently before the courts. The author, who has been a professor in the Harvard Law School for over twenty years, is one of the leading authorities in this country on the subject of real property.

The author begins the work by clearing one's knowledge in a short treatment of future interests in property and of the restrictions on their creation which do not come under the rule against perpetuities. The rule is distinctly stated with its corallaries, and then the author shows what interests are too remote and what interests are subject to the rule. The work occupies 615 octavo pages, and the number of cases discussed and cited is 3600. The book is admirably printed, and will be of inestimable value to any one who desired to get all the law on the subject. Unlike a great many text-books that